GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4015
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001
DOHA SUMMIT
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussion held in the WTO Conference recently held in Doha on the issue of textiles alongwith the point of view adopted by the Government of India in this Conference;

(b) the decision taken in the Conference regarding textiles; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the textiles sector in India alongwith the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR)

(a) to (c) As part of the implementation concerns India had sought additional flexibilities apart from those existing under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. The Ministerial Conference at Doha has taken a decision on some of the implementrelated concerns, which are as follows:-

`Reaffirms the commitment to full and faithful implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, and agrees :

That the provisions of the Agreement relating to the early integration of products and the elimination of quota restrictions should be effectively utilised.

That Members will exercise particular consideration before initiating investigations in the context of anti-dumping remedies on textile and clothing efforts from developing countries previously subject to quantitative restrictions under the Agreement for a period of two years following full integration of this Agreement into the WTO.

That without prejudice to their rights and obligations, Members shall notify any changes in their rules of origin concerning products falling under the coverage of the Agreement to the Committee on Rules of Origin which may decide to examine them.

Requests the Council for Trade in Goods to examine the following proposals :

That when calculating the quota levels for small suppliers for the remaining years of the Agreement, Members will apply the most favourable methodology available in respect of those Members under the growth-on-growth provisions from the beginning of the implementation period; extend the same treatment to least-developed countries; and, where possible, eliminate quota restrictions on imports of such members;

That members will calculate the quota levels for the remaining years of the Agreement with respect to other restrained members as if implementation of the growth-on-growth provision for stage 3 had been advanced to 1st January, 2000; and make recommendations to the General Council by 31st July, 2002 for appropriate action.`

The decision regarding exercising particular consideration before initiating anti-dumping action on Textiles and Clothing products could help prevent arbitrary imposition of such measures against textiles and clothing products. The other decisions, which are in the nature of best endeavour clause or require further consideration could, if favourably considered, help overcome certain barriers to market access faced by our exports in this sector.